

opinion of most of the people I have met that these guns should by law have sawn off barrels. A special force of game wardens could also be formed to help stop the destruction of wild life by illegal shooting.

The beautiful jungles of Palamau always notoriously short of water in the summer can only conserve its wild life in the years to come by the building of properly maintained protected watering places, so that people and animals alike can never again be struck by the great tragedy of drought.

14, BALLYGUNGE PARK ROAD,
CALCUTTA,
November 24, 1967.

ANNE WRIGHT

2. CAN YOUNG BATS COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR PARENTS AT A DISTANCE ?

I write to report an experience similar to the one reported by me in August 1965 at page 539 of Volume 62 of your *Journal*. Once more, though it was in a different house, the bats had made their home in the electric meter box. This time there was only one young one and it fell to the floor at about 7 p.m. I put it on the cement floor near my small wicket gate and, switching on the verandah light, I settled down to keep watch. Immediately, the bat began to move and wriggled its way towards the verandah, a distance of about seven yards. Reaching the steel door-mat it wriggled halfway across. Then, evidently not liking the feel, it turned about and went back to the gate, where it settled down peacefully. About fifteen minutes later it repeated the performance, and again settled down. Half an hour thereafter, when two adult bats appeared and made six or seven low sorties over it, the baby suddenly came to life with renewed energy, not only crawling back towards the verandah but even making low hops in an evident attempt to rise in the air. I feel definite that some kind of message was interchanged. Or, was it merely an acute sense of smell that was responsible? After a few minutes the adults departed and the baby lay down at the gate as if dead. This new performance was repeated five times over by adults and baby, till on the fifth occasion one of the adults alighted near the baby and took it back to its home in the meter box. The time was then 8.40 p.m. Throughout the proceedings I did not hear a sound.

OFFICERS' QUARTER A-1,
OLD POLICE LINES,
MORIGATE ROAD,
DELHI-6,
October 3, 1967.

Lt. Col. A. DAVID